

Gateway to Excellence

## **Public Notice**

Reply To: U.S. Army Cor

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: CEMVS-OD-F 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, MO 63103-2833 Public Notice No.

P-2653

Public Notice Date

December 3, 2007

**Expiration Date** 

December 24, 2007

## Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Comments on the activities described below should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (<u>Charles Frerker</u>) 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

- 1. Mr. Robert Wydra, Executive Director, Tri-City Regional Port District, 1635 West First Street, Granite City, Illinois 62040, (618) 877-8444, has applied:
- a. To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Regulatory Branch for authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to excavate accumulated river deposits from an area in front of the existing Tri-City Regional Port District North Harbor. The riverine deposits continue to decrease adequate water depths for daily river terminal operations. The applicant proposes to excavate approximately 10,000 cubic yards of river deposited material with a barge mounted and/or land operated clam shell excavator. No dredging equipment is proposed to complete the work. The excavated material would be placed in hopper barges and towed to the primary open river disposal location in St. Louis County, Missouri, at approximate Mississippi River Mile 194. The secondary open river disposal area is proposed near the Missouri and Illinois state boundary, at approximate Mississippi River mile 184. The excavated material would be removed from the hopper barges with a barge mounted clam shell and cast back into the Mississippi River at the above mentioned disposal locations. The excavation activities would take approximately 60 days for project completion. Excavation would begin immediately if a permit is authorized. The North Harbor excavation area is located in the Southwest ¼ of Section 14, Township 3 North, Range 10 West, in the Chain of Rocks Canal, in Madison County, Illinois. (See Attached Figures)
- b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at <a href="www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/">www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/</a>. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 11 of this public notice for Corps address).

- c. To the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. By issuance of this public notice, the project plans are considered submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program.
- d. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval of the proposed work in accordance with "an Act in relation to the regulation of the rivers, lakes and streams of the State of Illinois" (Ill. Rev. Stat.; Chap. 19, par 52 et seq.). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mr. Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, Illinois, 62702-1271, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.
- 2. Based on our initial processing of the applicants' proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.
- 3. This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- 4. The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.
- 5. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.
- 6. The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis), Gray bat (Myotis gricescens), Pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus), and the Decurrent false aster (Boltoniea decurrens). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, this public notice solicits comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.
- 7. Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before the public notice expiration date. The decision whether to authorize the proposed work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Project authorization will be granted only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.

- 8. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.
- 9. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Frerker), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to *charles.f.frerker@mvs02.usace.army.mil*, on or before **December 24, 2007**.
- 10. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

Danny D. McClendon Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

## NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 21 days.









